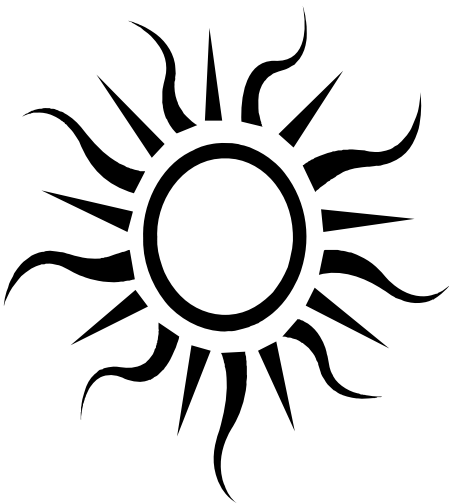


Department of Human Services

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*Important story at this spot

Articles in Today's Clips Tuesday, October 31, 2006

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Fallout hits care center in death of 2-year-old

Director charged with misdemeanor

BY RUBY L. BAILEY
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

October 31, 2006

Jacqueline Hadwin saw bruises and scratches on 2-year-old Allison Newman at least once, but she didn't call Child Protective Services, prosecutors say.

Hadwin, director of the Childtime Learning Center in Plymouth, now faces up to 93 days in jail or a \$500 fine, or both, if she is convicted of failing to report suspected child abuse.

The 36-year-old Westland resident was arraigned Monday in 35th District Court in Plymouth on the misdemeanor charge. She was released on a \$1,000 personal bond and is to appear at a pretrial hearing Nov. 20.

Allison, who attended the center five days a week, died Sept. 22 of head injuries. Her foster mother, Carol Ann Poole, 40, of Canton has been charged with murder and child abuse in her death.

"It was serious enough that it was pointed out to the director," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said of the injuries Childtime workers told authorities they brought to Hadwin's attention.

Neither Hadwin nor her attorney, Gerald Evelyn, could be reached for comment.

In a statement, Childtime said Hadwin denies wrongdoing and the center has "never hesitated to notify the appropriate authorities when we suspected that a child might have been in danger." The state shut down the center Oct. 16.

Allison died the same month two workers told police they had reported their concerns to Hadwin. The workers had done the same in July, Worthy said.

"It's tragic in this case that later she died," Worthy said.

Child-care workers are required by law to immediately report suspected abuse by phone and then in writing within 72 hours, Worthy said. The Childtime workers did not face charges because they said they were trained to report only to the director, Worthy said.

Amy Popp, a spokeswoman for Childtime, said the center's training manual requires workers to report abuse to the state and the center director. She said a copy of the manual is at the center and available for all employees.

Poole, who told police that Allison accidentally hit her head, is scheduled for a Nov. 13 preliminary examination on felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter charges.

"If that director would have listened to her employees, Allison possibly could have been saved," said Allison's paternal grandfather, Ken Newman of Westland.

Allison was taken from her biological mother in November 2004 and was a temporary ward of the Wayne County Family Court. Poole, who was licensed for foster care last year, received Allison this summer through Lutheran Social Services.

The state suspended the center's provisional license, which was set to expire Nov. 7, and is continuing its investigation, Maureen Sorbet, spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Services, said Monday.

Childtime is working with the state to have its license reinstated, Popp said.



Allison Newman

Reporting abuse

Under the state's Child Protection Law, these categories of workers are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect: social services; medical; mental health; legal, law enforcement and criminal justice; education; child day-care providers; clergy.

So-called mandated reporters must immediately contact Child Protective Services by phone or in person to report suspected abuse or neglect. A written report must be sent within 72 hours. Failure to report can result in a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to 93 days in jail or a \$500 fine, or both.

Anyone can report suspected child abuse or neglect to the state by calling 800-942-4357 anytime.

Fallout hits care center in death of 2-year-old

A Department of Human Services licensing study review in April found several violations at the center.

Fewer staffers than the required number were on hand and one child was seen hitting another "several times in the head without intervention," the review said. During lunch, children "were observed to go from plate to plate, sticking their fingers in the food and then in their mouths."

Three children under 12 months, who are required to sleep in cribs or beds with side rails, were found sleeping in infant swings and a car seat. An undisclosed number of caregivers were seen changing diapers, cleaning children's noses and assisting children in the restroom without washing their hands in between.

After using the toilet but failing to wash their hands, some children proceeded "to the lunch table where they were observed to stick their fingers in plates of food and then into their mouths," the review said.

The center submitted corrective action plans that the state accepted.

"We addressed all the issues," Popp said.

In November 2005, the center also was cited twice for violations. A worker injured a 3-year-old girl by picking her up by an arm, "due to being angry over the child not cleaning up as directed," according to the state investigation. The girl's parents took her to a doctor, who "snapped her elbow back in place."

The same month, the center was cited for not having enough employees to supervise children during nap time. In one room, one worker supervised 13 children ages 2 1/2 to 3 years. The state requires one worker for every eight children.

Contact **RUBY L. BAILEY** at 313-222-6651 or rbailey@freepress.com. Staff writer Jack Kresnak contributed to this report.

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For tips on spotting signs of abuse or neglect, go to www.michigan.gov/dhs. Click on "Protective Services" on the right of the page; then click on "Referral Process."

RUBY L. BAILEY

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October 31, 2006

Plymouth day care director charged

She is accused of not reporting suspicions of abuse or neglect of 2-year-old who died in foster home.

Iveory Perkins / The Detroit News

PLYMOUTH -- The fate of a day care center remains in limbo after its director was charged with failing to report suspicions of abuse against a toddler who died in September

Jacqueline D. Hadwin, director of Childtime Learning Center in Plymouth, was arraigned Monday in 35th District Court after Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy charged her with one misdemeanor count of failing to report abuse or neglect in connection with the Sept. 22 death of foster child Allison Newman, 2.

The charge followed accusations from two employees who claim they approached Hadwin, 36, of Westland in July and September about bruises on Allison, but nothing was done, Worthy said. Newman's foster mother, Carol Anne Poole, 40, was charged with murder in early October.

"I don't know if Allison's life would have been spared," Worthy said. "But it is all the more tragic when there was suspected abuse and nothing was done."

State law mandates that child care providers report suspected abuse or neglect. Hadwin was released on \$1,000 bond and faces 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine if convicted.

She still works for the center, and her attorney, Gerald Evelyn, denied the accusations. "She was shocked and devastated by the charge because there is nothing more important to her than the welfare of the children," he said.

The Learning Care Group Inc., a Novi-based company that operates Childtime centers in 21 states, issued a statement countering the accusations and adding, "We never hesitate to notify the appropriate authorities when we suspected that a child might have been in danger."

The criminal charge comes after state officials suspended the Plymouth center's license this month. Worthy's action has no bearing on the state's investigation, said Jim Gale, executive director of the state Office of Children and Adult Licensing. The center is appealing the order, which caused more 100 children to be displaced.

Childtime cared for Gail Backus' son for two years. The Redford Township mother was "outraged" about the accusations of failing to report abuse. Her son is now in a Farmington Hills day care. "It used to be best day care center around, but she changed that," Backus said.

Allison was in the care of the center for about six months before she died of blunt head trauma in the Canton Township home of Carol and Alan Poole. Carol Poole, 40, phoned 911 to report the child was unresponsive, and police said she later said the child hit her head.

Poole's attorney, Mark Satawa, has said it was a "tragic accident." Worthy said the employees who reported the abuse allegations won't be charged because the center's policy was for them to repeat such suspicions only to the director.

You can reach Iveory Perkins at (734) 462-2672 or iveory.perkins@detnews.com.

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WXYZ

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URL: http://www.wxyz.com/wxyz/nw_local_news/article/0,2132,WXYZ_15924_5104594,00.html

Plymouth Day Care Director Charged

By 7 Action News Team
October 30, 2006

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy announced Monday that charges have been filed against the director of a Plymouth day care center who is accused of ignoring signs of suspected abuse.

2-year-old Allison Newman's foster mother is accused of abusing the little girl and killing her.

Two former employees say they noticed and reported signs of suspected child abuse to their supervisor, but the abuse was not reported to the state as is required by law. Worthy said Monday that they had not been properly trained to report abuse.

The prosecutor says the day care director did nothing when told twice of the suspected abuse.

"It's all the more tragic when there was suspected abuse and it was not handled properly," the Wayne County Prosecutor said Monday. "Maybe, as a result, this 2-year-old is dead."

Childtime day care claims they investigated the situation but found nothing to substantiate the claims of abuse.

The state of Michigan has recently shut down Childtime day care in Plymouth.

You can check on the license of any daycare center in the state of Michigan. To lookup a daycare center, or to learn more about the licenses they must have, [follow this link](#).

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2-year-old Allison Newman's foster mother is accused of abusing and killing her. Now, the director of a daycare where the abuse was reported has been charged as well.

Published October 31, 2006
[From Lansing State Journal]

Local news briefs

Day care director charged in death

PLYMOUTH - The director of a day care center that cared for a 2-year-old girl who died of head trauma was charged Monday with failing to report suspected abuse. Jacqueline Dorothy Hadwin, 36, didn't report scratches and bruises on Allison Newman when they were brought to her attention by workers at the Childtime Learning Center, prosecutors said. Allison died Sept. 22 from traumatic head injuries. Her foster mother, Carol Ann Poole, 40, of Wayne County's Canton Township, is charged with murder. She faces a Nov. 13 preliminary hearing. Hadwin denies wrongdoing and the center is cooperating with authorities, according to a statement from Childtime.

- From staff and wire reports

Charge of failure to report abuse filed

Woman accused in connection with Canton girl's death

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

By SUSAN OPPAT News Staff Reporter

A Plymouth day care provider has been charged with failing to report suspected child abuse or neglect, in the case of a 2-year-old Canton Township girl whose foster mother has been charged with killing the child.

Jacqueline Dorothy Hadwin, 36, of Westland, was arraigned in 35th District Court Monday on the 93-day misdemeanor. Child care providers are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Allison Newman died Sept. 22, after 40-year-old Carol Poole said the child fell from a second-story loft onto the first floor while she swung the child by her feet over her head and between her legs. Poole faces life in prison if convicted of felony murder.

Canton Township Police said Poole admitted to waiting four hours before she called 911. By that time, the child had no brain activity and her temperature had dropped to 92 degrees, police said.

Township police said that while investigators were pursuing evidence in Poole's case they uncovered allegations by former employees of the Child Time day care on Helm Street in Plymouth. The workers told police they reported suspected abuse to Hadwin, but Hadwin never reported their suspicions.

Canton Detective Sgt. Rick Pomorski said workers spotted unusual bruises on the child several times in the two months before she died.

"They always see bumps and bruises, but what they saw elevated their suspicions, they wanted to voice their suspicions," Pomorski said. "It was enough for these day care workers who know what normal bruises look like, to put suspicion in their minds," he said.

Hadwin was released on

personal bond after arraignment. Her next hearing is set for Nov. 20.

Susan Oppat can be reached at soppat@annarbornews.com or at 734-482-1166.

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Article published Oct 30, 2006

Director charged for not reporting abuse suspicions

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

A Westland woman who runs a child care center in Plymouth Township is being charged with failing to report signs of abuse on a Canton toddler who eventually died while in the care of her foster mother.

Jacqueline Hadwin, 36, director of Childtime Learning Center, faces 93 days in jail or a fine of not more than \$500, or both, if convicted of misdemeanor failure to report suspected child abuse.

The charges stem from the death of 2-year-old Allison Newman, the Canton girl who died Sept. 22, a death the Wayne County medical examiner ruled was caused by head trauma. Carol Poole, Allison's foster mother, has been charged with felony murder, child abuse and involuntary manslaughter in the case.

The state closed Childtime last month after two witnesses came forward and alleged they'd reported their suspicions of child abuse to supervisors at the center. On Monday, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy announced the charges against Hadwin.

Hadwin was arraigned Monday before 35th District Court Judge Ron Lowe. She was given a \$1,000 personal bond and is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Nov. 20.

"Deciding on child care, particularly for a young child, is one of the most stressful, time-consuming, and important decisions that a parent makes," Worthy said in announcing the charges. "And still you always worry if your child is safe. It is critical that all child care providers strictly follow reporting laws. Perhaps if this had been done, little Allison might be alive today."

In a statement released Monday, Childtime officials called the charges "surprising," but vowed to "continue to cooperate with all the appropriate authorities."

"Everyone at Childtime takes their responsibility of being mandated reporters very seriously. While child abuse is a rare but sad reality, we have never hesitated to notify the appropriate authorities when we suspected that a child might have been in danger," the statement read. "In fact, we have promptly reported suspicions of abuse and neglect both in Michigan – and around the country – in those cases where it was warranted."

Poole, scheduled for a Nov. 13 preliminary hearing in 35th District Court, faces a mandatory life sentence if convicted on the felony murder. The first-degree child abuse charge carries a maximum sentence, while involuntary manslaughter carries a maximum 15-year penalty.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Published October 31, 2006

Opening arguments to begin in murder trial: Man charged with death of child faces life term

By Susan Vela
Lansing State Journal

A jury today will begin hearing evidence against Samuel Courtland, who is on trial for allegedly murdering and abusing 2-year-old Jalyn Daniel, the son of his former live-in girlfriend.

Opening arguments are set to begin first thing this morning.

Courtland, 32, faces life in prison for Jalyn's May 2005 death. A 14-member jury panel, which will include two alternates, was selected Monday.

Courtland's trial is expected to last two weeks, Ingham County Circuit Judge Beverley Nettles-Nickerson told jurors.

Prosecution witnesses could number about 50 and defense witnesses could amount to approximately 15, said prosecutor Bill Crino and defense attorney Peter Samouris.

Medical personnel responding to a 911 call around 6 p.m. on May 14, 2005, found Jalyn apparently not breathing in a sport utility vehicle at his mother's duplex home, 6217 Grovenburg Road.

Investigators have said the child had burn marks on his feet, crushed bones in one hand and the imprint of a household iron on his back and buttocks when he was taken to the emergency room.

He was pronounced dead while at a local hospital. Crino has said Courtland beat the child while Jalyn's mother, Cynthia Daniel, ignored the abuse.

Daniel, 31, was initially charged with murder, too. She has pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse.

While she faces a Nov. 8 sentencing, she must testify during Courtland's trial.

Contact Susan Vela at 702-4248 or svela@lsj.com.

What's next

- Opening arguments should begin at 9 a.m. today in the trial of Samuel Courtland, 32. He is accused of murdering and abusing his former live-in girlfriend's son, Jalyn Daniel, 2, in May 2005.



Jackson Citizen Patriot Live

Monday, October 30, 2006

Couple's probate hearing postponed

A hearing for a Jackson couple who allegedly failed to seek medical care for their dying son was postponed Monday.

A social worker in the case against Lee and Melinda Hampton was vacationing.

The Hampton's 4-month-old son, Lee II, died Aug. 27, 2005. The autopsy concluded he died of cirrhosis of the liver, with complications.

A month earlier, a caller reported to child-welfare officials the baby appeared green and dying. A report filed a year later in Probate Court claims the couple did not seek medical attention as the boy's condition worsened.

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'Youth pastor' won't plead guilty; more sex charges possible

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

By Paul Janczewski

pjanczewski@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6333

FLINT - Paul L. Gagnon, a self-described youth pastor, has refused a deal to plead guilty to nine charges involving eavesdropping and child pornography.

Prosecutors have pulled the deal off the table and could add more charges against Gagnon, 51, when a preliminary hearing resumes in Flint District Court.

Earlier this month, Gagnon waived a preliminary hearing and agreed to plead guilty to an eavesdropping charge stemming from allegations he spied on a male roommate and the roommate's girlfriend. He also was to plead guilty to eight additional charges alleging he used his computer to possess and manufacture child pornography pictures.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors had agreed to end a forensic examination of his computer and equipment and not add new charges.

Gladys Christopherson, an assistant Genesee County prosecutor, said authorities now will continue to look for criminal evidence on Gagnon's computer and seek as many charges as necessary.

A storage area of Gagnon's that police recently discovered will be examined to determine if materials are found there that could lead to more charges.

Attorney Erwin F. Meiers III, who represents Gagnon, told Christopherson of his client's change of heart during an arraignment Monday before Genesee Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman.

Hayman referred the case back to Flint District Judge Michael D. McAra. A date for the hearing was not yet available.

While his original eavesdropping charge is a 2-year felony, several of the new charges added after testimony began earlier in a preliminary examination carry up to 20 years in prison.

And because Gagnon has a federal bank fraud conviction in 1994, he faces a longer prison sentence because he is deemed a habitual offender.

The case began when a teen who lived with Gagnon found an elaborate spy camera system that led to Gagnon's bedroom.

He later found pictures in Gagnon's office of the teen getting dressed, of Gagnon standing over him and taking pictures as he slept nude, and pictures of the teen's girlfriend using the toilet.

Those items were taken to Flint police, who arrested Gagnon in early August.

Later, family members found more computer equipment and turned that over to police.

Gagnon is being held in the Genesee County Jail on a high cash bond. Each of the nine charges carries a

cash bond of \$18,000.

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Porn suspect arraigned

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

COOPERSVILLE -- An Ottawa County man was arraigned Monday on child pornography possession charges after a two-month investigation by sheriff's deputies, who were tipped off to possible criminal activity by the suspects family members. Authorities arrested James Mann Jr., 41, last week on the allegations of possessing abusive material, a 20-year felony count. Investigators seized material from his Coopersville home, Lt. Mark Bennett said. Police do not believe Mann's alleged activity extended outside his home.

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Parents, kids warned

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

HOLLAND -- Police say parents should talk to their children about dangers posed by strangers. A 9-year-old Holland boy was approached Monday by a man in a black SUV. The boy was walking near 22nd Street and Van Raalte Avenue about 8:30 a.m. when the man pulled up in the vehicle and got out. The boy, who was on his way to school, told police he ran away as the man walked toward him and said something he did not clearly hear. The man was described as in his 30s, with short black hair, wearing blue jeans and a brown sweatshirt. Anyone with information can call police at 355-1100 or Silent Observer at 392-4443.

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Meadows To Look At Home Schooling

MIRS, October 30, 2006

The first bill former East Lansing Mayor Mark **MEADOWS** would introduce if he wins the 69th District House seat would be to revamp and put restrictions on the way home schools operate.

As a former assistant attorney general for the state, the 59-year-old Democrat has learned a lot about how human services programs work. Although he doesn't believe the Gov. Jennifer [GRANHOLM](#) administration could have done anything else to save Ricky **HOLLAND**'s life, he does think tightening up home schools would prevent further deaths.

Recall that Holland was the 7-year-old Williamston boy that a jury found was killed by his foster mother. It's not uncommon for parents who have abusive records, like the Hollands, to home school their kids to hide the abuse, Meadows said.

There's no restriction on who can home school their kids, so it makes it much easier for families who are abusive to keep the child at home, Meadows said. If the kids aren't in school, it's harder for others, specifically teachers to see the abuse.

By law, teachers are required to file a report when they suspect that a child is being abused. Tightening up home schooling laws would keep kids in the public eye, which might result in more cases of child abuse being reported before it's too late, Meadows said.

Meadows said he doesn't know if other states have similar laws, but he wants to give it a try. This might help state workers, who never seem to have enough personnel or money, to stay on top of every case, Meadows argued.

"I think a Democratic Legislature would place a higher priority on this," Meadows said about increasing human service funding and passing his home schooling legislation.

Meadows beat out two other Democrats in a tight primary and is now running against Republican Johnny **KNOWLES**. Meadows said his political experience — he's been an assistant attorney general, participated in political campaigns and recently resigned as the East Lansing City Council member — helped him land the candidacy.

He's also testified before House and Senate committees and helped draft legislation as an assistant attorney general. Though he hasn't been to Lansing recently, he's been getting plenty of advice.

"I've gotten lots of advice from almost anyone who has two legs," Meadows said. "I think I got advice from my dog, but I haven't been able to decipher that yet."

Meadows said that no matter what level of government he reaches, he will strive to continue helping the people.

Meadows is married with four kids and three grandkids, all of whom live in Michigan.



LETTER: We should do more to stop child abuse

Monday, October 30, 2006

As you know, child abuse is a growing problem across the nation and, according to the Community Coalition Against Family Violence, one out of every four girls and one out of every six boys will have suffered some form of abuse by their 18th birthday. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of those statistics will be reported. Those children not helped will suffer for the rest of their lives because, according to an article by Heidi Splete (Childhood abuse predicts anxiety disorders), abuse can lead to anxiety sensitivity and is linked to adult pathological worry.

This is why I think we could do more. We should not be afraid to report abuse, but many of us are. Reed Health found that even healthcare professionals are afraid to report abuse for multiple reasons, but when it comes to child abuse, there are no excuses. Some people are scared to report suspicion of abuse because they just don't want to get involved. But think of how a child would suffer without your help. I agree with the Tennyson Center for Children when they say, "Suspicion of abuse is all that is necessary to file a report."

I am asking you for your help. I want people to know that it is OK to help and they shouldn't be afraid to report abuse. There are a lot of children suffering. According to the Tennyson Center for Children, three children a day die because of child abuse. For every child that is saved, there are multitudes who are still hoping for help. I just think there's more we could do, and if everyone just helped a little, it could go a long way.

Just think, you could save a life with just a phone call or an anonymous report. I'd like to thank you for your time and I hope you'll take my opinions into consideration.

Jean Hilaski,

Hopkins

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The New Zealand Herald

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PNG police accused of torture, rape of women and children

Tuesday October 31, 2006

By Nick Squires

SYDNEY - Police in Papua New Guinea regularly rape and torture women and children and are feared as much as the country's criminals, a human rights group said yesterday.

Human Rights Watch said violence against children held in custody was rampant despite recent attempts to reform the juvenile justice system.

The New York-based organisation reported a depressing lack of progress in cleaning up the PNG police force's conduct since a similarly damning investigation was released last year.

Law-enforcement officials were able to commit widespread abuses without fear of prosecution, Human Rights Watch said.

Recent incidents included prison officers beating and sexually abusing boys held at a jail in January this year, and police opening fire on unarmed schoolboys in October 2005.

Police were also accused of beating up and gang-raping a group of women and girls during a raid on a brothel in 2004. None of the officers allegedly involved in these incidents has been punished.

These brutal tactics had destroyed public confidence in the police, said Zama Coursen-Neff, senior researcher for HRW's children's rights division.

By choosing not to punish abusive police, Papua New Guinea's leaders left ordinary people as afraid of the police as they were of criminals. This problem would not diminish unless police perpetrators were prosecuted.

There were small signs of progress in reforming the system, HRW said in its 50-page report.

Police set up a two-person unit to monitor the treatment of children in custody and NGOs were trying to lift the lid on police brutality. These developments had yet to produce demonstrable change in police treatment of children, the report said.

Australia is the largest aid donor to PNG, but its ability to encourage reform has diminished since last year, when a contingent of 210 Australian federal police had to be withdrawn from the country because of an argument over immunity from prosecution. The officers had been deployed under Australia's A\$1 billion Enhanced Co-operation Programme, which was aimed at reforming law enforcement, justice and government in PNG.

Sexual violence against women and children comes amid a rapidly escalating HIV-AIDS epidemic in PNG.

With an estimated 140,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, the country has the highest infection rate in the South Pacific.

Police are accused of spreading the disease by not only sexually abusing young girls and prostitutes but also by beating those who carry condoms, including health workers promoting safe sex.



New program aids domestic violence victims

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

By Theresa D. McClellan

The Grand Rapids Press

KENT COUNTY -- There was a time in Kent County when victims of domestic violence had few choices -- mainly run and hope to find a safe place or stay with the abuser.

Next year, there will be another option: permanent housing.

The YWCA of West Central Michigan, with a \$570,000 grant from Michigan State Housing Development Authority and \$150,000 from Steelcase Foundation, will buy and refurbish three duplexes and buy three apartments in Kent County for permanent housing for domestic violence survivors.

Currently, there are 27 apartments in transitional housing for domestic violence survivors where they can stay for up to two years.

Emergency shelters give 250 women up to 30 days to find housing.

"Shelter is a response to the crisis but doesn't get them to housing, employment, child care. Transitional housing starts that process," said Carla Blinkhorn, YWCA president.

Training available

While working with the YWCA, the women receive training for employment and education.

Organizers also work with the women on safety planning.

The residences will offer security cameras outside. They can get more security features in cases of emergencies.

"We do that now with women who are in highly lethal situations. We want to design security very much around what their needs are," said Blinkhorn.

There is a constant need for transitional housing.

The latest figures from the 2005 Health of Kent County report show 3,000 reported cases of physical assaults by current or former intimates.

Keeping their jobs

"We have a constant waiting lists for transitional housing. A variety of women come in underemployed or unemployed and that can be a direct result of domestic violence," Blinkhorn said.

They have seen clients whose abusive mates won't allow them to work or go to school. If they have jobs, they often are stalked at work and harassed and lose their jobs.

Women at the poverty level of \$16,740 with three dependents would pay 30 percent of their income for housing.

About seven years ago, the YWCA did a study of women who returned to a shelter five times or more.

"There is an expectation that women leave many times more before making a permanent break. What we heard over and over was that not finding safe, affordable housing kept them coming back to their assailant," Blinkhorn said.

The goal is for women to stay in their own homes.

"But, for too many women, the violence is too severe," Blinkhorn said.

The YWCA is looking for duplexes it can rehabilitate with the nonprofit Dwelling Place, a community development organization.

The residents will own the homes, and the YWCA and Dwelling Place are responsible for finding the units, rehabbing and managing them.

Currently, there is no permanent housing program in Kent County specifically for domestic violence survivors.

Providing permanent housing for domestic violence victims is one step in a long-term effort, Blinkhorn said.

Send e-mail to the author: tmcclellan@grpress.com

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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Domestic violence victims remembered

SafeHouse vigil marks end of awareness month

Monday, October 30, 2006

BY LISA ALLMENDINGER

News Special Writer

It has been eight years, but the pain is still as deep as the stab wounds that took the life of her daughter, Veronica Walker.

Olidia Thomas says she vividly

remembers the phone call she received from her husband at work. It was the phone call that no parent wants to

receive.

Her 29-year-old daughter had been found by police stabbed multiple times in her van in Ypsilanti Township. The

fatal wounds were dealt by her

estranged husband of six years, Julius Walker, who is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder.

"She'd been stabbed 18 times. Her neck and wrists were cut," said

Thomas following a moving candlelight vigil attended by about 60 people

Sunday night at SafeHouse Center.

Veronica Walker left behind four children, ages 11 weeks to 6 years old.

Although a teary Thomas told the crowd in vivid detail about her devastating loss, she said she'd found hope and courage from God and was poised "to give back to the community that

extended themselves to us, to our

family."

She said she recently became a

volunteer at SafeHouse so she could help others.

"Domestic violence is a horrible thing," she said. "It twists families in so many ways but God is able and He will make a difference in our lives."

Thomas was the first of two featured speakers at the ceremony who told how their lives were forever changed by

violent acts.

Cheryl Engel lived through 13 years of violence against her and has finally broken free of the hands that repeatedly

assaulted her.

"There is life after domestic violence," Engel said.

Amid a backdrop of brightly colored T-shirts with artwork created by those touched by violence, mothers, daughters, friends, family and volunteers gathered to mark the conclusion of Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a ceremony punctuated by poetry and song.

"We wanted to pause and

remember why we're doing what we're doing," said Molly Resnik, director of resource

development.

She said SafeHouse Center serves as "a shelter for

someone running for life," as well as a helpline center with phones manned by volunteers 24 hours a day.

"We actually dispatch to hospitals, police, and if safe, to the homes of survivors," Resnik said.

The center also has high school volunteers such as

Bennett Stein, 16, a student of Pioneer High School who

received training and speaks to his peers about dating violence.

"It's meaningful. We help and educate," said Lauleh Aslani, 17, a volunteer from Huron High School, of the teen program at SafeHouse.

"We can answer questions and give them facts," said Stephanie Webb, 15, a new volunteer and student at Saline High School.

Barbara Niess, executive

director of the center, called the evening a time "to stand with those currently struggling with domestic violence."

If you suspect or are a victim of domestic violence, the SafeHouse helpline is available 24 hours a day. Call 734-995-5444 or go to The Web site at www.safehousecenter.org.

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Man commits suicide

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

NELSON TOWNSHIP -- A man killed himself Monday after his wife escaped after five hours of being held captive when she jumped from a moving car and ran to a house at 21 Mile Road and Tisdell Avenue, Kent County sheriff's deputies said. The 35-year-old woman called 911 and told dispatchers that her husband, from whom she is separated, threatened her life. The man pulled into the residence's driveway and shot himself, police said. Investigators are trying to unravel what led to the alleged kidnapping and suicide. The woman told authorities there was no history of abuse in the relationship, and the husband only recently began harassing her with phone calls.

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Battle Creek Enquirer

October 31, 2006

Walberg skewered on YouTube site

Tim Walberg has become the latest in a growing line of congressional candidates getting skewered on the video-sharing Web site YouTube.

A video, called "Tim Walberg Coddles Child Abusers," shows static running through one of Walberg's own ads and accuses the 7th Congressional District candidate of hypocrisy.

A voice-over says Walberg supports traditional family values but did not fire a staff member charged with child abuse.

The staff member, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor domestic violence, resigned after the charges became public.

Both Walberg's campaign and his opponent, Democrat Sharon Renier, said they were not familiar with the ad, which is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1w2FbrPGRY

"It sounds funny," Renier said.

Joe Wicks, spokesman for Walberg, declined to comment without seeing the spot, but said its title was "absurd."

The video was posted on Monday by baxter232, a new user to the site whose profile lists the individual as being a 26-year-old United States resident.

Making a difference: Jobs Daughters make fleece blankets for women's shelter

By Tanya Berkebile, Cadillac News

EVART - Although it was a time for work, chatter and laughter could be heard at a Saturday afternoon workbee.

Five girls and their parents spent three hours measuring, cutting and piecing together fleece blankets, all the while enjoying the feeling of how their work will help keep people warm - and working quickly so they could dig into their reward of a piping hot pizza.

Although it is sometimes difficult for one person to make a difference, these five Evert girls learned that together, they could make a difference.

As part of National Make a Difference Day which was held Saturday, the Evert chapter of Jobs Daughters met for a fleece blanket workbee. During the day the girls pieced together six blankets to be donated to WISE, a women's shelter in Big Rapids.

"I think it went pretty well," said group counselor Elna Wilder. "We had a total of 12 people including friends and parents of the girls. We made the six blankets we aimed for - I was impressed because I didn't think we could get them all done. I thought it would take another day."

It was the first time the Evert Jobs Daughters have participated in Make a Difference Day, but it won't be their last.

"We have always wanted to get involved, but we always think about it at the last minute," Wilder said. "This year we had time to plan ahead."

The fleece for the blankets was donated by the local Masonic Lodge, so all the girls needed to do was donate their time and labor. The five girls along with parents began their work at noon and finished at 3 p.m.

Besides Make a Difference Day, the group of girls also participate in other projects throughout the year. For fun, the group goes shopping, plays mini golf, goes bowling and skating. They also visit other chapters of Jobs Daughters around the state and out of state as well.

As for charitable work, the group helps with programs at a Masonic home in Alma and raises money for children who are in need of hearing aids.

"I think it is great for the girls to get together and do things that are good for others," Wilder said.

tberkebile@cadillacnews.com | 775-NEWS (6397)



Granddaughter, young men accused of robbing woman

Victim banged pots, pans to summon neighbor

PUBLISHED: October 31, 2006

By Norb Franz
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Three teens are charged with breaking into a disabled Warren woman's home, robbing her at gunpoint and fleeing in a vehicle driven by her 16-year-old granddaughter, police said Monday.

The robbery suspects stole the wheelchair-user's cell phone during the incident in the 7000 block of Continental. With no other phone to call for help, the 65-year-old victim banged pots and pans for 45 minutes until a concerned neighbor came to check on her, police said.

Officers arrested the granddaughter and her 17-year-old boyfriend, Eric Thomas Zielinski, at his home on Eleanor Avenue later that night. Zielinski, who is jailed in lieu of \$300,000 bond, faces a preliminary hearing today in 37th District Court on charges of first-degree home invasion, armed robbery, two counts of possessing a firearm while committing a felony, and interfering with a crime report.

His attorney, Cyril Pessina, was unavailable for comment Monday.

Prosecutors opted to charge the teenage girl as a juvenile in the Oct. 17 incident because she confessed to her role, pleaded guilty in Macomb County Juvenile Court to home invasion and otherwise agreed to cooperate with detectives against the male suspects. Because she is charged as a juvenile, police declined to disclose her name.

Investigators believe the robbery suspects targeted the woman to steal several prescription drugs.

"They probably had a pill party," Detective Cpl. Steve Colegio said.

The accused granddaughter had previously resided with the victim -- a widow who lives alone. The senior citizen recently kicked the teenager out of her home for stealing her medication, police said.

Minutes before the robbery, neighbors saw the girl standing on her grandmother's porch. Three males later entered without her.

"They put a gun in grandma's face, scare the daylights out of her, take her medication, her cell phone ... and some money," Cpl. Colegio said.

The trio took a dresser drawer containing a variety of prescription drugs including the pain killer Vicodin, plus an unverified amount of cash that one suspect claimed was \$300, police said. They dropped a few dollars outside as they fled.

Last week, police arrested Alexander Lawrence Herd, 17, and Brandon Lee Avner, 18. Both are charged with armed robbery and first-degree home invasion, and await a preliminary exam Nov. 9 to determine whether they should stand trial in Macomb County Circuit Court.

Herd, a resident of Eastpointe, remains held in the Macomb County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bond. At \$10,000, the bond for Avner, of Warren, is less because he has cooperated with detectives in their investigation, Colegio said.

Investigators also received a tip from a man who claimed that one of the suspects asked him how to get a prescription refilled.

Police have not recovered the weapon, reported to be a BB gun, used in the robbery.

There was no answer Monday at the victim's door on Continental Avenue, located near Van Dyke and Nine Mile Road.

Click here to return to story:

http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/103106/loc_victim001.shtml

10/31/2006

Police: Teen steals car during failed escape attempt

By VICTOR SKINNER
vskinner@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — A Traverse City teenager stole a car and fled from police after he escaped while being transferred to probate court.

The 15-year-old male was arrested on several charges including fleeing and eluding, possession of a stolen vehicle and malicious destruction of property. He was in front of the Governmental Center in Traverse City at about 4:15 p.m. Friday when he allegedly broke away and headed for the Boardman River, Grand Traverse County Sheriff Scott Fewins said.

An employee of Eagle Village, a juvenile treatment facility near Reed City, was transporting the youth when he escaped, the police report said. The sheriff's department did not identify the suspect because of his age.

Police said the youth went north along the river under the Eighth Street bridge and eventually came out near the intersection of Eighth Street and Woodmere Avenue. He came upon a parked Jeep Liberty with the keys inside and drove the vehicle to Silver Lake Road.

The suspect was attempting to answer a phone in the vehicle when he allegedly rear-ended a pick-up truck near Barnes and Silver Lake roads. He then drove west on Barnes Road with the truck following, Fewins said. The suspect continued west on North Long Lake Road and turned south on East Long Lake Drive, losing the pick-up along the way.

Police located the vehicle on West Silver Lake Road where deputies set up a partial road block and "stop sticks" near Lillian Lane. The tires went flat from the "stop sticks" and the vehicle went off the side of the road near Galvin Road, Fewins said.

The juvenile surrendered to deputies and was taken back to probate court and eventually sent to the Shawano Center, a juvenile detention facility near Grayling. He told deputies he fled because he wanted to go home to see his mother, Fewins said.

Uninsured to get drug discounts

New program open to all Berrien residents, regardless of income

By JULIE SWIDWA

H-P Staff Writer

Berrien County residents who have no prescription drug coverage can get a discount on medicine through the Berrien Health Plan.

The new component of the plan provides a discount averaging about 20 percent off the price of drugs at participating pharmacies. The program was announced at the recent annual meeting of the Berrien Health Plan by Christopher Strayhorn, president of the board of directors. The Berrien Health Plan, which began in December 2004, is a not-for-profit organization that is serving about 1,450 people in Berrien County.

The plan is designed for people 18-64 who cannot afford insurance but do not qualify for other public assistance programs. The new discount prescription program was added to help people who lack drug coverage. Unlike the general health plan, there are no income guidelines for the drug coverage. To be eligible, a person needs only to live in Berrien County and have no other coverage for prescriptions.

The discount applies to any prescription medicine the pharmacy stocks that is prescribed by a doctor. Over-the-counter drugs are not included.

In announcing the program, Strayhorn said the Berrien Health Plan is dedicated to developing coverage programs for uninsured and underinsured people. He called the discount drug program a natural extension of services to people who need help with the high cost of prescriptions.

People who are eligible will receive a Berrien Discount Prescription Program card that should be presented at the pharmacy

when a prescription is bought. There is no cost for the card or to enroll in the program, but the discounted price must be paid to the pharmacy when the medicine is picked up.

A news release said a person using the prescription card will save an average of around 20 percent off retail on a typical "market basket" of drugs. Savings will generally range from 5 to 25 percent, with discounts as high as 70 percent possible but not likely. The release said savings depend on the kind of prescription, the pharmacy and whether the pharmacy already is having a sale on the medicine. The discounts are due to prices negotiated with pharmacies by Claimspro, a pharmacy benefit manager.

Barb Henderson, executive director of the Berrien Health Plan, said almost all pharmacies are participating in the plan. She said when people enroll they will receive a list of participating pharmacies along with their discount card.

Enrollment in the BDPP is through the Berrien County Health Department. For more information or to enroll, call 927-5693 or go online to

www.communityhealthplans.org/Berrien_default.htm.

Henderson said the Berrien Health Plan is providing necessary medical services to people who otherwise would not have health care services. The plan is paid for with federal money administered through the state, with the Berrien County Health Department serving as the fiduciary agent.

The office has ample supplies of bread and pastries, he said.

Applicants can apply at the office from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. weekdays. Applicants must be residents of Monroe County. Individuals who earn up to \$14,700 a year and families of two people that earn up to \$19,800 a year can apply for assistance. The income threshold to qualify for a family of three is \$24,900 and for a family of five or more is \$35,100.

They can receive food once a month every 30 days for up to four months in a row under the Salvation Army policy. But many of the recipients are newcomers, Mr. Hudson said.

"A lot of different people come every month," he said.

Needy families that have applied for assistance at the Department of Human Services (formerly Family Independence Agency) can receive food while their applications are being reviewed. The department office is located at 1051 S. Telegraph Rd. just north of the Secretary of State office.

A family of one or two people can receive one full bag of groceries. A family with three or four people can receive two bags and a family of five or more receives three bags.

The office also has some new and used coats for those who need them. People should call ahead at 241-0440 to make an appointment for Wednesdays, when the coats are handed out at the Salvation Army Church, 1018 E. Second St. The office also has used clothing available.

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THE DAILY Reporter

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I support him for the fact he is firm in his decisions

Print Page

To the Editor:

I support the re-election of Judge Frederick Wood as probate court judge. I'm sure at this point in the campaign, that many families in Branch County that have had, and continue to have, connections to the Department of Human Services and the probate court are very reluctant to show support for Judge Wood. This reluctance may be the result of the recent articles on the front page of The Daily Reporter targeting a local foster family and the alleged connection between this family and Judge Wood. This foster family has been singled out and criticized because of their public support of Judge Wood.

I don't support him just to guarantee his annual approval of my status as legal guardian to my wonderful grandson. I support him for the fact that he follows the law. I support him for the fact he looks directly at you when you talk to him, not over or around you as I've observed and experienced his opponent doing. I support him for the fact he is firm in his decisions and truly has the best interests of the people of Branch County at heart in making these decisions.

Please join me in re-electing Frederick Wood for probate court judge.

Margaret Fillmore

Coldwater

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THE DAILY Reporter

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Woman who's worked with Judge Wood for 18 years says re-elect him

[Print Page](#)

To the Editor:

I have been an employee of the Branch County Probate and Juvenile Court for 26 years — working for Judge Frederick Wood for the past 18 years.

As court recorder for 11 years, I have personally observed the majority of the hearings conducted in the probate courtroom by Judge Wood. It's been said — and it's true — he's tough on all — attorneys, social service workers, neglectful parents and delinquent children. He expects professionalism from professionals. He expects them to be prepared to have done their job. He expects neglectful parents to admit and correct the issues that brought them before him. He expects delinquent children to learn from their mistakes and become law-abiding adults. Judge Wood does not hesitate to express his strong feelings when necessary, yet he is also aware of and sensitive to the needs of families and children in our community.

Judge Wood makes difficult decisions about placing children out of neglectful or abusive homes and considers requests to terminate parental rights. In guardianship matters, Judge Wood suspends a person's right to make decisions for themselves or a parent's right to make decisions for their child. He makes decisions regarding the involuntary hospitalization of persons alleged to be mentally ill. These are serious issues with serious results in the lives of those who come before him and Judge Wood recognizes that. A person who petitions the court for an order is required to prove why the action is necessary according to the requirements of the law. His is not a "good old boys" courtroom.

Judge Wood is honest, committed, professional and experienced. He is passionate in his protection of children and vulnerable adults. He has founded a many-faceted service for the delinquent youth in the form of the Day Treatment Program.

He works in cooperation with law enforcement, school officials, and other professionals throughout Branch County to determine how to best serve the needs of our community. Please join me in voting on Nov. 7 to re-elect Judge Frederick Wood as Branch County's Probate Judge.

Karen Sobeski

Bronson

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Article published Oct 31, 2006

Grand relations

Stacy Hanna

The Enquirer

Lorraine Muse has three grown children — two sons and a daughter, all in their 30s.

But she's not done raising kids.

At 51 years "young" she still has work to do, she says, a purpose beyond what is expected of most women her age.

Muse and her husband, Will, are among the 2.4 million grandparents in the United States raising grandchildren.

For the past 10 years, while her husband has worked to provide financial stability for their nontraditional family, Muse's days have been filled with sports, homework and lessons — activities generally left to parents. Although she admits being tired, she's not ready to quit.

"It's a gift from God," she said of the ability to care for three of her 10 grandchildren. "I want them to be better than I am, to have more opportunities than I could give their parents. It's like a second chance."

According to the National Center on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, most adults caring for their children's children are between the ages of 55 and 64, but nearly 25 percent of them are over 65.

While intergenerational families cross all ethnic and socioeconomic lines, the National Center reports that grandparents raising grandchildren are far more likely to be a person of color and to live in poverty than those who are not.

In their Battle Creek home, Muse and her husband are raising three of their grandchildren: 16-year-old Joshua Williams, 13-year-old Giovanni Williams and 7-year-old A'dreanna Williams, all the children of Muse's 30-year-old daughter.

Muse has legal custody of the two older children, but only cares part-time for the youngest.

The 7-year-old cherubic girl in braids divides her time with her mother and Muse, but relies on her grandmother for much.

Today, it's homework.

"Granny, I need you to help me," she said, waving her math book.

The kids have a good relationship with their mother, Muse said. Living and working in Battle Creek, she sees them almost every day.

"My daughter was very young when she had kids, and not financially stable," Muse said. "She wanted them to have a good home and a good upbringing.

"It was a mutual agreement to give me legal custody of Josh and Gigi," Muse said, remembering her family's day in court. "Just the four of us and the judge ... it was the best thing for everybody."

From a legal standpoint, having custody of her grandchildren makes it easier to take care of them. There are fewer hassles with school registration and medical care, however Muse's own health has made things difficult.

A five-year breast-cancer survivor, Muse was stricken with a debilitating viral illness in 2004 that damaged her respiratory system, making it tough to keep up with her young and busy family.

"I'm grateful it happened when they were older," she said. "I was healthier when they were younger, but they're more self-sufficient now."

The oldest of the Williams children, Josh, said it hasn't always been easy being raised by his grandmother.

"She's hard on us sometimes because she wants us to do well," he said. "It's annoying, but she's there ... I love her for being there."

Muse admits it's difficult to separate her parental role from her role as grandparent.

"I'm tougher on them than on the other seven (grandchildren)," she said. "I think Josh used to resent that."

She also admits there are things she would like to do but can't because of her parenting responsibilities — things like traveling.

"I've never been on a cruise," she said. "And I rarely see my siblings — they live all over the country."

"I do feel trapped sometimes," Muse said. "My husband and I have made a lot of sacrifices, and there are days when I wish I could have my freedom, but I wouldn't do it differently ... I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Stacy Hanna is Custom Publications Editor. She can be reached at 966-0468 or sthanna@battlecr.gannett.com .



THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Coleman details scholarship fund

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

BY DAVE GERSHMAN

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman announced a new effort to raise money for need-based scholarships Monday, saying the university must reach out to students from families that cannot bear the weight of tuition.

Coleman detailed the special fund, called the President's Challenge Fund, in her annual state-of-the-university address to the faculty.

The special fund, tapping discretionary money in the U-M budget, will provide matching funds of up to \$1 million for any donation of need-based scholarships. The money will be invested as an endowment.

Typically, such endowed scholarships carry honorific names.

Coleman said she does not want to lose great students who may not apply because they believe U-M is unaffordable. Tuition and fees for in-state students in U-M's biggest college increased 5.5 percent to \$9,723 this academic year.

"I feel strongly about reaching out to low- and moderate-income students, and I am looking for partners to increase our need-based aid," she said.

Coleman said raising money for need-based scholarships has been a challenge, but U-M has thus far raised 90 percent of the \$2.5 billion goal in cash and pledges in its massive campaign. The fundraising campaign, which also includes money for buildings and academic programs, ends in December 2008.

Coleman's annual address in the Rackham Amphitheater lasted for about 30 minutes, followed by 25 minutes of questions from audience members.

The president also announced the creation of three new faculty task forces and, in response to a question, defended a plan to renovate Michigan Stadium that includes the construction of luxury boxes.

One task force will provide advice or identify new opportunities for research in the life sciences, another will develop a strategic approach to improving the aesthetics of the campus with more public art, and the third will recommend new opportunities for cooperative research and education with China. In 2005, Coleman and other campus leaders traveled to China and signed educational agreements with several universities there.

"The university's longest international relationship has been with China, and I want us to continue to build this partnership for tomorrow's students and faculty," Coleman said.

One audience member asked Coleman how the planned \$226 million renovation of Michigan Stadium fits into the university's educational goals. Coleman said she firmly backs the controversial plan, which includes the addition of 83 luxury boxes and 3,200 club seats.

Athletic officials have said the renovation project is needed to make improvements to the stadium bowl and provide a long-term revenue source for the athletic department.

Coleman said the plan will be successful and poses the least financial risk to the university. Among the upgrades would be wider aisles and more bathrooms and concessions. She said the football program's revenues support non-revenue sports such as soccer and water polo - which she is not willing to cut.

"I believe that it fits into our academic mission, because I am a firm believer that intercollegiate athletics offers something very positive and special to the university environment," Coleman said.

Dave Gershman can be reached at dgershman@annarbornews.com or 734-994-6818.

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'The least among us'

Monday, October 30, 2006

Editor, The Saginaw News:

This was not a good week for Republicans to improve their image. Frequent harassing calls by their campaigners were showed announcing little evidence of Christian values. An example is this message: In response to the third debate between Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and Dick DeVos, the caller made statements showing discrimination against those whom Christ begged us to embrace "the least among us" -- the poor, the disabled, chronically sick and many elderly.

These are people deserving public financial assistance, popularly called "welfare." I was outraged when the caller actually said, "The governor refused to sign a bill requiring welfare people be drug tested."

Targeting welfare recipients is blatant discrimination. Dependency on the government is humbling enough. Imagine being a victim of unfortunate circumstances and then labeled as a probable drug user. Another absurd statement was, "Despite the governor's time limits, she has no time limits when working for those on welfare." She was implying that Granholm was pandering to welfare recipients, as if unacceptable. Shameful indeed!

Earlier this week I heard about President George W. Bush and his associates mocking Jerry Falwell, James Dobson, Pat Robertson and other wealthy Christian contributors to Bush's election, calling them nicknames behind their backs, based on their eccentricities. A phenomenal sum from these men and their backers supports unnecessary discrimination against homosexuals, pro-choicers and stem cell research, issues prioritized by Bush.

Meanwhile the \$8 billion Bush promised at election to help the poor never materialized. Christians' priorities shouldn't be using the government for setting criteria regarding who are "true" Christians or judging the lifestyles and personal rights of others via legislation. But we should take responsibility for feeding the hungry and caring for the needy. Bush and other Republicans just seem to have no compassion.

Bonnie Johnson

Caro

SFA: Thousands Of Jobs At Risk If Prop 5 Passes

MIRS, Monday, October 30, 2006

More than 3,000 state jobs would be on the chopping block, seven state prisons would shutter, 5,000 prisoners would be let free, public health programs would be left in shambles and foster care programs would be sliced to near elimination if voters approve a ballot measure that shifts at least \$700 million to public education and teacher retirement packages, according to a report released today.

The Senate Fiscal Agency's (SFA) doom-and-gloom scenario of what might happen to the state budgets if Proposal 5 — which mandates annual inflationary increases for K-16 education — passes. Senate Majority Leader Ken [SIKKEMA](#) (R-Wyoming) shared the report with journalists over the weekend.

The SFA report itemized budget cuts of what might happen to different departmental budgets if K-16 passes. It doesn't factor in the possibility of any tax increases.

The SFA estimated that the individual departments that would take the biggest hits would be the Departments of Community Health (DCH), Corrections (DOC) and State Police (MSP). These three departments would all see a 10 percent reduction in funding for this fiscal year if the proposal passed and there were no reductions made to the K-12 School Aid state revenue sharing payments. This estimate also utilizes across-the-board percentage reductions.

That being said, DCH would lose an estimated \$294 million in this fiscal year. To make up for these reductions, the department would have to eliminate all Healthy Michigan Fund programs, reduce money being sent to Medicaid providers and eliminate all pay increases that have been awarded in the past two years.

If the DOC received a 10 percent cut or \$185.9 million loss, all academic, vocational education and substance abuse programs would have to be eliminated and seven prisons, two camps would also need to be closed. This would lead to 5,735 felons being released and the layoff of about 2,330 state employees, according to the SFA.

MSP would lose \$24.9 million with the elimination of training and grant programs. The 2007 trooper school would be cancelled.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), which would lose an estimated 8 percent of its budget, would take a \$95.7 million cut. To offset these changes, reductions in day care, foster care and adoption subsidy payment levels would be made and roughly 700 state employees would be laid off.

The other money would come from the Transportation budget (7.8 percent for a \$20 million cut) and general appropriations cuts (12.2 percent reduction for a \$87.5 million cut). These final cuts would impact every layer of state government from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Treasury.

"The impact of the reductions would depend on the decisions made in each department, but reductions of this size would require the layoff of very significant numbers of State employees," the report reads.

SFA Director Gary **OLSON** said his analysts looked at the programs that take up the biggest pieces of the General Fund to determine the cuts. The programs the SFA listed have historically gotten cut when there has been hits to the budget.

"If we need to make cuts it's pretty likely that these departments will be cut based on past experiences," he said.

MIRS asked if the estimates could have been rolled out differently.

"Yeah, we could do this any multitude of different ways," Olson said.

The one department that has more restraints is the DHS because if you cut too many DHS funds, you start to lose federal money, Olson said.

"We put together the kind of budget reductions that would be needed if the proposal is approved and you don't raise taxes to pay for it," Olson said.

Ken **MacGREGOR**, who's heading up the coalition that's in favor of passing Proposal 5, said it's interesting that Sikkema, who's openly opposed to the proposal, would ask for such a final breakdown a week before the election.

"I think it's good timing," MacGregor said. "The question I had was, when the Legislature dumped the Single Business Tax (SBT) and wiped out \$1.9 billion, how come no impact study was done?"

Sikkema Spokesman Ari **ADLER** said the Legislature didn't ask for an SFA analysis on the SBT elimination because it plans on replacing the tax.

"We're rolling out the truth and if that scares the voters, than so be it," Adler said. "One of the reasons we decided to release this information is because the K-16 Coalition has been deceiving voters for months."

Not so, MacGregor said. This is a scare tactic that's being used in the final days of the election to dissuade voters from voting yes on Proposal 5, MacGregor said.

"That's what this Legislature has consistently been doing. They continually cut the revenue and then turn around and say, 'We don't have the money to pay for essential services,'" MacGregor said.

If the Legislature was motivated to look at all of the tax loopholes and other "giveaways" that it's given to companies, it would be easy to find the revenue to pay for Proposal 5, he said.

The campaign for Proposal 5 and the one against Proposal 5 are holding press conferences tomorrow morning.